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Preface

The Alcalá First International Conference on Mathematical Ecology (AICME) was held at the University of Alcalá, Alcalá de Henares (Madrid), Spain on September 4–8 1998 with more than 230 participants from around the world. A spectrum of important and current topics of mathematical and theoretical ecology were presented during plenary and specialized scientific sessions.

Populations and ecosystems are at the heart of ecology. There are a variety of problems related to these issues and a wealth of methods have been developed to tackle them. The present issue reflects some of the most recent advances in these directions.

Each manuscript has been reviewed according to the standards of Ecological Modelling. Thus, this special issue consists of a set of high quality articles on a central topic of current research in mathematical and theoretical ecology.

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